

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**ASSOCIATION of
GOVERNMENTS**

Main Office

818 West Seventh Street

12th Floor

Los Angeles, California

90017-3435

t (213) 236-1800

f (213) 236-1825

www.scag.ca.gov

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Ventura County Transportation Commission: Keith Millhouse, Moorpark

MEETING AGENDA OF THE

WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

**Thursday, February 22, 2007
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

SPECIAL Meeting Location:

**Metropolitan Water District
900 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 217-6000**

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Dan Griset at 213.236.1895 or griset@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG, in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. If you require such assistance, please contact SCAG at (213) 236-1868 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to enable SCAG to make reasonable arrangements. To request documents related to this document in an alternative format, please contact (213) 236-1868.

DOC #132431 v1

Agenda
WATER POLICY TASK FORCE
February 22, 2007

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or another item, but within the purview of this Task Force, must notify staff to the Task Force prior to the meeting. At the discretion of the Chair public comments may be limited to three minutes.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the December 21, 2006 meeting. (Minutes will be available at the meeting and on the Task Force website:

<http://www.scag.ca.gov/wptf/index.htm>)

4.0 PRESENTATION ITEM FOR THE TASK FORCE

4.1 Green Streets

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Pat Fuscoe, Principal of Fuscoe Engineering, is applying a variety of sustainability concepts to the engineering design of Irvine's Great Park and its neighboring communities. Tina Christiansen, Director of Community Development at the City of Irvine, will join Pat to describe the very unique environmental approaches that are being used in planning the Park's infrastructure and in creating low impact development throughout the entire area.

**4.2 A Report on the Delta by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC):
Envisioning Futures for the Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta**

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California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is widely perceived to be in crisis today: in its current state, the Delta is unsustainable for almost all stakeholders. Richard Howitt, Chair of the Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics at UC Davis and one of the co-authors of the PPIC Report, will join the Task Force via teleconference to review the highlights of the report, along with its suggested alternative Delta management strategies.

4.3 The Delta Vision Project

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Keith Coolidge, Deputy Director (Communications) of CALFED, will describe a new process for addressing the critical dangers and challenges in the hub of California's water system on which 23 million Californians rely for water supplies. The Delta, as an ecosystem, also has 500,000 residents, 300,000 acres of agriculture, 750 plant and animal species, as well as energy, communications and transportation facilities that are vital to the economic health of California.

4.4 Legislative Report from Sacramento 10

Kathy Cole, Chief Lobbyist for Metropolitan Water District in Sacramento, will brief the Task Force on proposed legislation and other water issues of statewide significance.

4.5 Ventura County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning 11

Sue Hughes, Co-Chair of the Ventura County Watersheds Coalition, and Dee Zinke, Manager of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at Calleguas Municipal Water District, will brief the Task Force on the key elements of the regional water management planning effort in Ventura County, as well as on the process being used to bring three different watersheds into a single governance framework. Prop. 50 funding of \$25 million has been already approved for the Coalition. Prop. 84 has earmarked some portion of \$215 million for these watersheds, depending on the apportionment between Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.

4.6 Bond Implementation: Regional Workshop and Policy Guidance 13

Staff is seeking input from the Task Force in the preparation of a policy brief that will be finalized in a March workshop on guidelines needed for shaping future bond implementation legislation. A preliminary draft of a regional policy brief is presented as the basis for Task Force feedback.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

6.0 STAFF REPORT

7.0 TASK FORCE INFORMATION SHARING

8.0 COMMENT PERIOD

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The next Task Force meeting will be held on April 26, 2007 at the SCAG offices.

**Lunch is sponsored by the
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 22, 2007

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Program Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *Green Streets in Irvine's Great Park*

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

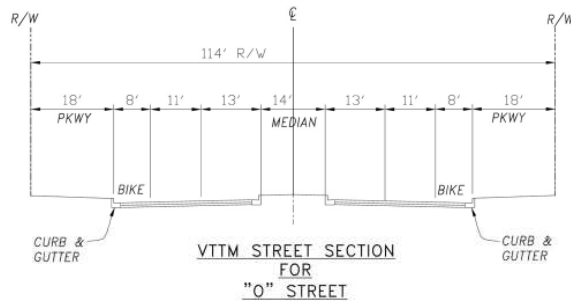
Patrick Fuscoe, leader of the Fuscoe Engineering firm, is creating a new kind of street in Irvine's Great Park. This effort aims to advance the environmental goal of greater sustainability and the elimination of polluted runoff and the capture and reuse of stormwater runoff. (A recent Orange County Register Q&A interview with Pat is included as an Attachment.) With Pat to describe the City's role in this planning approach is **Tina Christiansen**, AIA, Director of Community Development.

This effort to create new travelways and low impact development is the result of a partnership between the Great Park Corporation (City of Irvine) and Heritage Fields, LLC (Lennar Homes) for the redevelopment of the former El Toro Marine Base. Early on in the planning stage, a Green Streets Technical Committee was formed with members of both parties and their technical consultants to identify a variety of sustainable elements that could be incorporated into the street designs of the Great Park and the Heritage Fields communities. One primary goal of the committee was to transform the city street standards and details into compatible "green streets" standards that provided sufficient detail for various city departments (Public Works, Community Development) and agencies (Fire Department) to review and approve the revised street standards for this Redevelopment Project. A second primary goal included the identification and assessment of sustainable travelway elements that would be likely candidates for implementation throughout the property.

Over the course of 9 months, numerous workshops were held and eventually each primary street design approved in the original Redevelopment Plan had an equivocal green street design standard to match it. Upon conceptual approval of the revised green streets, City staff members were trained (both department heads and plan check staff) on the green streets catalogue content and the various green street designs.

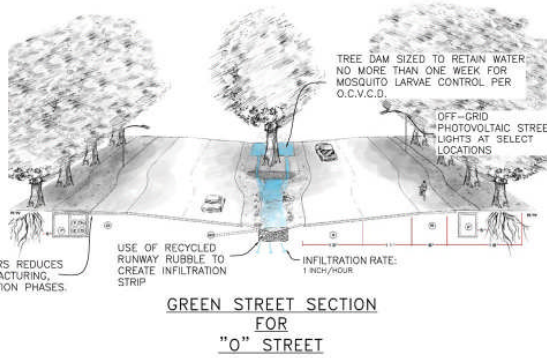
A couple of representative exhibits are provided below to show the existing and proposed street cross sections and dimensions and how elements from the Administrative Guidelines have been incorporated.

Shown below is a cross section illustration of the street design envisioned for the Great Park area:



ESTIMATED STREET COST PER FOOT: \$303

CURRENT VTTM STREET COST ESTIMATES INCLUDES*: CURB AND GUTTER, AC PAVEMENT, CURB, INLET CATCH BASINS, AND STORM DRAIN PIPE ESTIMATED AT 30"



ESTIMATED STREET COST PER FOOT: \$164

GREEN STREET COST ESTIMATE INCLUDES*: AC PAVEMENT, INLETS IN LANDSCAPED AREAS, STORM DRAIN PIPE ESTIMATED AT 18", AND ADDITIONAL PAINT STRIPE TO DEFINE WIDTH OF OUTSIDE LANES.

EXCLUSION OF CURB AND GUTTERS REDUCES CARBON EMISSIONS FROM MANUFACTURING, TRANSPORTATION AND CONSTRUCTION PHASES.

* ALL STREET ESTIMATES ASSUME NEW RAW MATERIAL FOR CURB AND GUTTER, NEW 4" AC PAVEMENT AND RECYCLED RUNWAY RUBBLE FOR 12" ROAD BASE

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 22, 2007

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Program Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *A Report on the Delta by the PPIC: Envisioning Futures for the Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta*

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Consider for future policy action.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Policy Institute of California just released a comprehensive analytical report on the Delta challenge, Envisioning Futures for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The report warns that the Delta is on a path towards failure, a failure that would have dire consequences for the state. The report presents the issue of tradeoffs in choosing a direction for the future: “a change in thinking is necessary, particularly in terms of the ability to satisfy all goals simultaneously.” Unlike the CALFED approach of the mid-1990s which suggested that all parties could get “better together”, the report states that the Delta “cannot be all things to all people. Tradeoffs are inevitable.” As a result, the new challenge is to “seek the best outcomes overall, accompanied by strategies to reasonably compensate those who lose Delta services.”

One of the report’s co-authors, **Prof. Richard Howitt**, will discuss the nine alternative scenarios that were developed to address the Delta’s future more comprehensively. Some of these are new, others are not. Most of these, however, consider the “severe disequilibrium and vulnerability” of the Delta. Three of these alternatives would maintain the Delta as a freshwater body, either by relying on current strategies or by building stronger systems. A second group of alternatives would manage the Delta as a more complex and fluctuating mosaic of uses, supporting water supply exports with peripheral or through-Delta aqueducts. A final group would reduce overall dependence on the Delta, or potentially abandon the Delta altogether. All nine alternatives are summarized below.

Freshwater Delta Alternatives: These aim to maintain the Delta as a homogeneous freshwater body, continuing policies begun in the 1930s. Levees, outflows, and perhaps barrier structures would be the primary way to control Delta salinity.

1. **Levees as Usual.** The current levee-intensive system would be maintained at recent levels of effort or modestly upgraded to meet federal standards for agricultural levees. Water exports would continue to be pumped through the Delta. Levee failures would occur with increasing frequency.
2. **Fortress Delta.** “Whatever it takes” investments would be made to support or fix levees deemed strategically important for urban areas, infrastructure, and water supply exports. To contain costs, the total length of the levees in the system would be shortened, reconfiguring some islands. Lower-reliability levees (mainly in the interior of the Delta) would be allowed to fail.

3. **Seaward Saltwater Barrier.** A permanent or movable barrier would be erected at the western edge of the Delta. This is one of the oldest and most extreme proposals for keeping salt water at bay, but it has recently reemerged because Dutch engineers have suggested the construction of a large movable barrier, similar to the Maeslant storm surge barrier that protects Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

Fluctuating Delta Alternatives: In all three of these alternatives, environmental conditions, especially salinity, would be allowed to fluctuate in the western Delta to improve habitat conditions for native fish species. Urbanization would be possible along the Delta's periphery behind strong levees.

4. **Peripheral Canal Plus.** An aqueduct would be constructed from the vicinity of Hood, on the Sacramento River, south along the Delta's eastern edge, sending water exports to Clifton Court Forebay. This would allow water exports to circumvent the Delta and yet continue to meet the Central Valley Project and State Water Project intakes that send water to other regions of the state. This proposal augments the traditional peripheral canal proposals with special operations.
5. **South Delta Restoration Aqueduct.** This aqueduct would be similar to the peripheral canal mentioned above, but its major outlet would enter the lower San Joaquin River. These supplemental freshwater flows would resolve various water quality and flow problems of the lower San Joaquin River and the southern Delta while improving the quality of water exports and reducing entrainment of native fish at the pumps. Some flows could be channeled into a wetland and flood bypass channel through the southern Delta, contributing to improved habitat and agricultural water quality. In-Delta investments would be made for environmental and other in-Delta uses.
6. **Armored-Island Aqueduct.** By armoring select islands and cutting off or tide-gating various channels within the central-eastern Delta, a major, semi-isolated freshwater conveyance corridor for water exports would be created. Various versions of this approach have been considered since the 1950s.

Reduced-Exports Alternatives: These alternatives rely neither on new Delta export facilities nor on levees. However, they imply an ability to greatly modify the pattern and quantity of Delta exports.

7. **Opportunistic Delta.** Only opportunistic seasonal exports would be allowed, during times of high discharge of fresh water from the Delta (generally winter and spring). Export pumping capacities would be expanded to accommodate these high pumping periods, and some surface storage within and near the Delta may be built. Salinity levels would fluctuate in the western Delta, and many islands would eventually become flooded. Urbanization would be possible along the Delta's periphery, behind strong levees.
8. **Eco-Delta.** The Delta would be managed as a single, unified entity to favor key Delta aquatic and terrestrial species. Water extraction, transportation corridors, and other functions would be maintained as long as they do not interfere with rehabilitation goals. Some water exports would occur but less than in the Opportunistic Delta alternative.
9. **Abandoned Delta.** A planned, multi-decade retreat from the Delta would occur, with the phasing out of much of the Delta's farm economy. Water exporting agencies would transition to alternative water sources and would increase water use efficiency.

It is clear that some of the report's Delta scenarios would have a significant impact on the SCAG region, especially with the potential for reduced the water supplies. Other scenarios could improve the region's water supply reliability, as well as improve water quality.

Given the magnitude of issues and the need for complex tradeoffs, it is no surprise that this report will stimulate needed discussion and not a little controversy.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 22, 2007

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Program Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *The Delta Vision*

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

For more than 10 years state and federal policymakers have been working on measures that might “fix” the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers Delta. These efforts, known as CALFED, have focused primarily on water supplies and restoration of the Delta’s ecosystem.

The Delta ecosystem is not only the hub of the California water system, it is a vital area for many other social, environmental and economic services as well. In the wake of Katrina, however, concerns about the potentials for a Delta breakdown or failure have grown dramatically. Voices with greater urgency are calling for steps to be taken to prevent an even greater calamity in California should an earthquake and flooding strike and overwhelm this fragile, challenged and important ecosystem.

These concerns resulted in passage of SB 1574, a bill authored by Shiela Keuhl that called for a comprehensive Delta Vision process that would encompass the Delta’s full array of infrastructure and land-use resources. This program seeks to prescribe those actions that can be taken to prevent a Delta disaster and institute policies and programs that would support the long-term sustainability of the Delta.

Failure to formulate a sustainable management program for the Delta would prove disastrous for the following reasons: Delta water sustains more than 500,000 people who live in the Delta, more than 300,000 acres of agriculture within the Delta, 750 plant and animal species that call the Delta home, as well as more than 23 million Californians and 7 million irrigated agriculture acres throughout the state. Additionally, energy, communications and transportation facilities traverse the Delta and are vital to the economic health of California.

Keith Coolidge, Deputy Director (Communications) of CALFED, will review the features of the Delta Vision process and the status of its implementation.

SB 1574 created a cabinet-level committee that is responsible for developing this Delta sustainability plan. This committee is chaired by the Secretary of the Resources Agency and including the Secretary of the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency, the Secretary for Environmental Protection, the Secretary of Food and Agriculture, the President of the Public Utilities Commission, the Director of the Department of Finance and the Director of the Office of Planning and Research.

The following objectives are to be considered in this effort:

1. Sustainable ecosystem functions, including aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna.
2. Sustainable land use and land use patterns.
3. Sustainable transportation uses, including streets, roads and highways and waterborne transportation.
4. Sustainable utility uses, including aqueducts, pipelines and power transmission corridors.
5. Sustainable water supply uses.
6. Sustainable recreation uses, including current and future recreational and tourism uses.
7. Sustainable flood management strategies.
8. Other aspects of sustainability deemed desirable by the committee.

Pursuant to this action, Governor Schwarzenegger has appointed a Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force that will be chaired by a seasoned public official with both local and state experience, Phillip Isenberg. The other members include Monica Florian, Richard Frank, Thomas McKernan, Sunne Wright McPeak, William Reilly and Raymond Seed.

The purpose of the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force, created by Executive Order S-17-06 (see attachment), is to develop a Delta Vision that will provide a sustainable management program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta, a unique natural resource of local, state and national significance. The Task Force will prepare an independent public report that will be submitted to the Delta Vision Committee and Governor that sets forth its findings and recommendations on the sustainable management of the Delta by January 1, 2008 and a Strategic Plan to implement the Delta Vision by October 31, 2008.

As these study effort proceeds, various legislative proposals are expected to address various Delta issues. One of these, for example, is SB 27, a bill by Sen. Simitian that proposes a peripheral canal in the Delta. Its proponents, however, are waiting for more facts and studies before this measure is able to get serious consideration.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 22, 2007

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Program Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *Legislative Report from Sacramento*

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Consider for future policy action.

BACKGROUND:

Kathy Cole, Chief Sacramento Lobbyist for Metropolitan Water District, will join the meeting via video teleconference to review pending legislation and other water issues of regional significance. Among this pending legislation are two measures of note in the water community: SB 59 (Cogdill) and SB 27 (Simitian).

Senate Bill 59:

SB 59, the Reliable Water Supply Bond Act of 2008, would authorize bonds in the amount of \$3.95 billion for the purposes of financing surface and groundwater storage, water use efficiency, environmental restoration, and water quality projects. The legislation would not authorize funds for future potential delta water transfer facilities. Funding for surface storage provided by this Bond Act is contingent upon development of a comprehensive financing plan by the beneficiaries of a water storage project. The legislation would require the Secretary of State to submit the bond act to the voters at the November 4, 2008, statewide general election.

Bond Funding Categories: Surface water storage, Groundwater and Conjunctive Use, Delta Sustainability, Agriculture and Urban Water Use Efficiency and Resource Stewardship and Environmental Restoration. Various funding levels are allocated to each category with bond funding tied to performance measures.

Senate Bill 27:

SB 27, the Clean Drinking Water, Water Supply Security, and Environmental Improvement Act, would authorize \$5 billion in general obligation bonds to be submitted to the voters for construction of a "Clean Water Facility" to move the intakes of the State Water Project (SWP) and the Central Valley Project (CVP) out of the Delta.

Key provisions of this legislation are intended to significantly improve drinking water quality, avoid disruption in water supplies with a catastrophic Delta failure, provide reliable and sufficient water supplies to residents, farms and business, improve ecosystem health in the Delta and Trinity River watersheds, reduce pollution in the Delta and Klamath and Trinity River watersheds, and reduce per capita reliance on the Delta through conservation, reclamation, reuse and other means.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 22, 2007

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Program Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *Ventura County Integrated Regional Water Management Planning*

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Consider for future policy action.

BACKGROUND:

The Ventura Countywide Integrated Regional Water Management (VCIRWM) Group was formed in September 2004 in response to funding opportunities found in Proposition 50. This measure required that funding eligibility depends on a project's inclusion in an adopted Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The VCIRWMP Group consisted of key stakeholders in the Ventura and Santa Clara River Watersheds; this Group guided the development of an Interim Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for these two Watersheds, which was completed in July 2005.

The Calleguas Creek Steering Committee, consisting of key stakeholders in the Calleguas Creek Watershed, was formed in 1996 to develop a Watershed Management Plan for the Calleguas Creek. That Plan was completed and adopted in November 2004. On June 15, 2005, the Calleguas Creek Steering Committee amended the Watershed Management Plan and successfully adopted the Calleguas Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

Sue Hughes, representing Ventura County, and **Dee Zinke**, representing Calleguas Municipal Water District (and a Task Force member), will describe this integration of planning and implementation among the watershed entities of Ventura County.

In July 2005, the VCIRWM Group and the Calleguas Creek Steering Committee each applied for a Step 1 Proposition 50 Implementation Grant to construct and advance the projects outlined in their respective Interim and Adopted IRWMPs. In the fall of 2005, the Department of Water Resources, as one of the agencies authorized to oversee Proposition 50 grants, requested the voluntary consolidation of a number of Regions for the purposes of application for Step 2 Implementation Grant funds. The VCIRWMP Group and the Calleguas Creek Steering Committee agreed on November 22, 2005 and December 15, 2005, respectively, to consolidate into one planning Region, consolidate the two IRWMPs, and to submit a single application for Step 2 Implementation Grant funds.

In March 2006, the newly consolidated Region was one of sixteen to receive a call-back from the State to apply for Step 2 Implementation Grant funds. In April 2006 the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) was formed by joint resolution of the Ventura Countywide Integrated Regional Water Management Group and the Calleguas Creek Steering Committee to oversee the consolidation of the two IRWMPs, submit a Step 2 Implementation Grant application for \$25 million, and pursue future IRWM funding. This effort was successful, resulting in state approval of \$25 million in Proposition 50 funding.

The Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County is composed of some 60-plus agencies and organizations that has been developed through a comprehensive stakeholder process. This process has created a sound basis for future activities such as data gathering, planning, design, implementation and evaluation through a long-term, iterative, community-based process.

Of special note, it has brought together two separate Ventura efforts for funding that now will need to be apportioned among the three Ventura watersheds. This is not unlike a larger challenge that is now emerging between Ventura and Los Angeles Counties: Proposition 84 specifies a single sum of \$215 million that must eventually be divided on some basis between the two counties. It will be instructive to track the Ventura apportionment process for the \$25 million to detect methodologies that may guide the apportionment of the \$215 million between the two counties.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 22, 2007

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Program Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *Bond Implementation: Regional Workshop and Policy Guidance*

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Provide staff with feedback to the briefing points below, especially where indicated.

BACKGROUND:

In November the voters approved \$42.6 billion of general obligation bonds:

1. **Prop 1B: Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006.** \$19.9 billion for increased capacity on state highways, upgrades on local transit and intercity rail service, air quality improvement projects, and safety and security projects on public transit, railroad crossings, highways, and ports.
2. **Prop 1C: Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006.** \$2.85 billion in bonds to facilitate new housing in already-developed areas, encourage home ownership, build new apartments with some set aside for low-income tenants, and build shelters for battered women and homeless people.
3. **Prop 1D: Kindergarten through University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006.** \$10.4 billion to modernize existing schools, build new schools, relieve overcrowding, enhance vocational training, fund "green" environmental projects at school facilities, and improve facilities at our community colleges and state universities (both CSU and UC).
4. **Prop 1E: Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006.** \$4.1 billion to rebuild the levees in the Central Valley, improve flood control in other areas, build bypasses to divert flood waters, map out areas most vulnerable to flooding, and manage stormwater outside the Central Valley.
5. **Prop 84: Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006.** \$5.388 billion to water quality programs that would provide safe drinking water, agriculture and Delta water treatment, and regional water management, conservation projects to restore and renovate major California rivers, urban streams, and Delta and coastal fisheries, improve access to regional conservancies, stormwater pollution prevention, flood control projects and floodplain mapping, maintenance of local and regional parks, water conservation and energy conservation in urban water settings, protection of specific watersheds and coastal areas, state park system improvements and nature education programs and new research facilities, forest and wildlife conservation, water planning statewide (including planning for the future needs of water users, water transport systems and flood control projects).

It is expected that SB 46, authored by Senator Perata, will become the key enabling legislation that implements the above bond measures. This bill, accordingly, will determine the framework through which these historic investments in California's critical infrastructure are made.

Concerns/Views expressed by State Leaders:

- These resources are an historic opportunity to meet the challenges of future growth and past infrastructure neglect.
- The appropriation of bond funds need to leverage other resources to maximize the effectiveness and scale of these infrastructure investments
- These various bond issues need to have performance synergies that maximize the range of project/program public (multi-purpose) benefits and encourage measurable outcomes
- The State has already supported blueprint planning through grants from HCD during 2005 and 2006. These activities, while focused on the transportation-land use nexus, are the only place in planning statewide that bring together a complete range of infrastructure/systems issues.
- Housing, land use, water, open space and energy are of particular importance in emerging regional plans, and tie-in closely with the State's objectives.

Regional Views about the Role of Regional Planning Organizations and Bond Implementation:

- Locally-elected officials need to have a prime place in prioritizing programs and projects for bond funding
- Regional review protocols/arrangements should be used to assure the state that bond funding is optimizing investment synergies (the Air Plan model)
- Councils of government now in place provide an existing framework/structure for integrating the planning and review activities needed for maximizing public benefits in all the major metropolitan areas (any new regional or watershed governance arrangements that may be needed can be achieved by expanding or updating the CoGs)
- Regions can provide an orderly and predictable mechanism for funding critical infrastructure projects at the local level, while at the same time assuring coordination and performance. The existing transportation planning and funding process serves as a potential model.
- *(what other points need to be added?)*

KEY BRIEFING TEXT:

SCAG's Legislative Objectives with SB 64 (or related legislation):

- a. Require that all bond fund appropriations be subject to regional review (organized around a prime role for councils of government throughout the state's regions) to ensure that programs and projects optimize the multi-purpose objectives identified in the various bond measures.
- b. Require that regional accountability take the form of periodic reporting to the Legislature on the outcomes achieved by all bond-supported programs and projects.
- c. Allocate from the 5 bond measures sufficient funding for this review and reporting activity.
- d. Encourage the role of partnerships among public, private and non-profit entities as the preferred model for maximizing cooperative problem-solving and increasing the "return" on bond and other investments (in lieu of the current conflict model driven by single purpose regulation, imposed implementation plans, and frequent litigation).
- e. Recognize the unique needs of underserved communities.
- f. *(what other points need to be added?)*

SCAG's Activities to Achieve its Legislative Objectives:

- a. Line up support for the Legislative Objectives among key cities, counties, regional leaders, business organizations, public interest groups, environmental organizations.
- b. Highlight the role of environmental organizations, including the California League of Conservation Voters and the Planning and Conservation League, in developing proposals.
- c. Work quickly to minimize or eliminate differences among regions and local governments. In particular, a performance standard for regional plans must be agreed upon.
- d. Ensure that SCAG's leadership participation is representative, including large and small communities and different parts of the region.
- e. Organize a communications plan by which these supporters directly contact key legislative offices.
- f. Work with CoGs throughout the state to coordinate communications and keep the "message" focused about these objectives.
- g. Brief the Governor's office on these objectives.
- h. Communicate with key interest groups in Sacramento on this regional effort to get comprehensive policy and funding coordination.
- i. *(what other points need to be added?)*

ATTACHMENT

Q&A with Pat Fuscoe (Orange County Register, January 2007)

Q&A with Pat Fuscoe (Orange County Register, January 2007)

January 16, 2007

Fuscoe answers readers' Great Park questions

Engineer Patrick Fuscoe has answers about plans for horses, boating, golf and much more.

By COLIN STEWART

The Orange County Register

Horse trails, boating, golf and modern architecture – yes.

Spanish colonial architecture – not at first.

Horse stables and water skiing – no.

Those were some of the plans for Irvine's Great Park that the site's lead engineer, Patrick Fuscoe, discussed in an interview last week. The questions in the interview were submitted by Register readers.

Here are the topics and excerpts from Fuscoe's comments:

How definite are the plans? Everybody in the county has ideas on what should be in there. There's nothing certain yet. All the plans for the park are in the programming stage. The team and the city are working together to imagine what the experiences will be out there and designate areas for them.

Horse trails and stables: One of the ingredients being considered is an equestrian staging area. The hope is that an area could be set aside and designed that would enable people to bring their horses to the Great Park and ride trails in certain areas. And connect northwards to Whiting Ranch riding areas and some of the foothills.

Stables are another matter. Keeping the horse 24 hours a day is a different use. The problem, I understand, with stables are economics, water quality consequences, and some other things.

Water skiing: Last time I water skied it took several miles of open water. We have a 20- to 24-acre lake, quite similar to the North Lake in Woodbridge in size. Moving around in a water ski facility would be impractical, not to mention it would preclude other uses such as row boats, paddle boats and even swimming perhaps.

Swimming and boating: The vision for the lake is for an attractive amenity for visitors. There's probably a swimming lagoon similar to Woodbridge. There's a marina where there would be small boats – little Sabots for sailing, paddleboats, rowboats, maybe even little electric surrey boats like the Duffy boats for people to putz around on the lake and enjoy it. Maybe fishing.

Model airplanes: There's quite a healthy club of model airplane users that have leased and used the vacant runways out at El Toro for the last couple of years and I think they want to stick around. I don't think there are any plans for a designated area, but there are two or three spaces in the park that are what I call "free spaces on the bingo card." They're enormous open areas – big lawns – that would allow for temporary uses. People could come in with permission and stage something like a tournament of some sport, or model airplanes.

Golf course: Two of them. The one that's out there now – which just got closed – will be remade into a brand new one and remain public. I suppose with a relatively modest green fee. The course will be remade to be a little more environmentally compatible. One of the goals will be to approach an Audubon certification, which is where the course is designed to be very ecologically friendly, without overuse of

fertilizer and pesticides and irrigation runoff, with a lot of native plant species. It will be reopened – I think within two years, something like 18 months.

There will be a second, brand new course added, which will be private – but something like Pelican Hill, where the public can play for a fee. It will be more elegant and more challenging.

Both of the courses will have a clubhouse and a driving range.

Handling floods and droughts: We're not going to bury runoff. We're going to be a lot more environmentally friendly. We're going to open up the drainage. When the water comes running into the park, it will slow down, spread out and sort of calmly move through, and as it does we're going to encourage it to infiltrate back into the ground. We think we can capture something like 300 acre-feet a year of rainwater – that otherwise would be lost to the ocean – that we can put back into the groundwater and use for our drinking wells and other important uses.

In the dry season, the same floodway will be dry, but all of the irrigation runoff and other excess water will go to that area and keep it moist and lush throughout the summer.

Spanish colonial architecture: Fair question. It's the predominant architectural style here in southern California.

For the park itself and for some of the iconic structures – the bridges, the towers, some of the symbolic structures – there'll be a theme, a design style. It's contemporary, very modern, angular, metallic, simple.

In the Cultural Terrace area, that's the area where many, many buildings will be built over many decades. All these museums and other facilities will each have their own architecture, some of which may (be Spanish colonial).

California Fire Museum: That's another one with quite a constituency. They show up at the public hearings and ask repeatedly for consideration. They're a worthy group along with hundreds of others, so it's quite difficult to choose. What will happen is that there'll be an area set aside for buildings – say two or three dozen – and each of the building sites will be available to a worthy cause. People will have to muster their forces, get their economics together and make a business presentation to the Great Park Corp. They would come in and pitch their building. I suppose the corporation will look long and hard at whether they have a substantial constituency, do they have enough money to build the building properly and run it, and so on. I'd say the sites will be finished and physically available in two to three years. Groups could start planning now.

Military memorial: Two sites respond to that. There's going to be an air museum complex. They're going to save one of the existing hangars that's really quite nice, and refurbish it, and build one or two more buildings that will contain all sorts of airplanes. And the balloon (the tethered 72-foot diameter orange balloon that will take park visitors 500 feet aloft) will be there. This will be the air museum and balloon area.

On nice days and weekends they'll roll the planes out and line them up on the runway. That's one "quasi-memorial" function. It pays its respects to the aviation history of the property and the Marine Corps.

Then, across the way near the lake and the canyon is what's called the Contemplative Memorial. Four elongated buildings, resembling Quonset huts – they're sort of in a pinwheel design, a little campus. The idea there is to develop a design of something that's quiet and serious and emotional, a place where people would go to pay their respects to the military, as a memorial. It's something along the lines of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Those are just ideas at this point. They need to be more fully defined.

Cemetery: A cemetery – now I'm speaking for our neighbors, Lennar and Heritage Fields – half the property is owned and is being developed by Lennar. At Heritage Fields, one of the (uses) that's being

developed is a cemetery, of something like 80 acres, I believe, right on Irvine Boulevard. With its lawn and trees, it will almost seem like part of the park.

Fancy or comfortable for average people? Over the last several decades there's been one kind of park that's rising in popularity and success. That's a "sustainable park." It's a park that's designed to be more natural, rustic and environmentally sustainable for hundreds of years. The Great Park is striving to be a sustainable park. There'll be lots of open space that people can access, lots of spaces that are flexible, where people can invent what they want to do. We know that in 50 years or 100 years what people are going to want to do is going to be different from what we're doing today.

So we're smart enough to leave a lot of areas that can adapt to that, whatever that may be.